

Senate Resolution No. 29

Introduced by Senators Romero and Kehoe

Relative to Senator Rose Ann Vuich.

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich blazed a trail for women in the California Legislature by being the first woman elected to the State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich was first elected to the Senate in 1976 and she served four consecutive terms through 1992; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich was a second-generation Serbian-American from the small farm town of Dinuba, in Tulare County, California; and

WHEREAS, Before her election to the Senate, Senator Rose Ann Vuich had distinguished careers as a farmer, President of the Dinuba Chamber of Commerce, a tax accountant, an estate planner, and an office manager; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich was an expert in agricultural development and international trade and chaired the Legislature's Rural Caucus and the Senate Banking, Commerce and International Trade Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich authored California's Agricultural Export Finance Program, which became a national model; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich authored legislation that created California's former Trade and Commerce Agency; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich was the only woman in the California Senate for two years and she served as the Senate's female conscience by keeping a small porcelain bell on her Senate floor desk, which she would ring whenever a colleague addressed the "gentlemen" of the Senate, as a reminder that a gentlewoman was present in the chambers; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich was a person of integrity who took her public responsibilities very seriously and gave her

constituents fair, ethical consideration of issues and conscientious, cost-effective delivery of service; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rose Ann Vuich's tenure in the California State Senate marked the beginning of positive change by paving the way for future women legislators who have joined her legacy and, in this regard, there are currently 12 women in the Senate and 25 in the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The restroom near the Senate Chamber was designated "The Rose Room" in Senator Vuich's honor and in deference to the fact that there was no restroom nearby for her to use, and it is the only room in the Capitol named after a woman; and

WHEREAS, The California Room, room 4203, is named after the Honorable John Burton, the podium in the Senate Chamber is named after the Honorable Ralph Dills who presided over the Senate for many years, the Members' lounge is named after the Honorable Ken Maddy, the Speaker's conference room is named after the Honorable Willie Brown, former Speaker of the Assembly, room 4202 is named after the Honorable Jesse Unruh, also a former Speaker of the Assembly, and room 3162 is named after the Honorable Tom Bane who chaired the Assembly Committee on Rules; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That a more suitable room in the Capitol than the restroom should also be designated in honor of Senator Rose Ann Vuich to appropriately reflect her stature and legacy in the Senate; and be it further

Resolved, That hearing room 2040 shall be hereafter and forever known as the Rose Ann Vuich Hearing Room; and be it further

Resolved, That an appropriate plaque shall be placed in the hearing room in honor of the Honorable Rose Ann Vuich; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of this resolution to the authors for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 29 read and adopted by the Senate May 25, 2006.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate